

PATENT SPECIFICATION

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(54) IMPROVEMENTS IN AND RELATING TO DRAWER RUNNERS

(71) We, MINES & WEST LIMITED, a British Company, of Downley, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire HP13 5TX, do hereby declare the invention for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us and the method by which it is to be performed to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

The present invention relates to improvements in drawer runners.

According to the present invention there is provided a runner for a drawer comprising an elongate strip of plastics adapted to be releasably engaged on a drawer support wall, the strip having opposed facing upper and lower surfaces between which a flange of a drawer will be received, the lower surface being recessed to receive freely rotatable balls, and stop means intermediate the ends of the recess in the lower surface for limiting movement of the balls along the recess.

The present invention will be more fully understood from the following description of an embodiment thereof, given by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawing, in which:

FIGURE 1 is a part sectional view showing an embodiment of a runner in accordance with the invention; and

FIGURE 2 is an elevation of the runner of Figure 1.

As shown in Figures 1 and 2, a drawer runner 18 comprises an elongate strip 19 of plastics material, e.g. made by extrusion, providing opposed facing upper and lower surfaces 20, 21 between which a flange 22 on a drawer 15 is to be received. The strip is provided with spaced bores 23 which correspond to a set of horizontally aligned bores 16 in a drawer support wall 2 in which fixing dowels or pins 17 are received for fixing the strip 19 to the wall 2. Each bore 16 may as shown be provided with a socket 16a.

The lower surface 21 of the strip is recessed and receives ball bearings 24 which are captive and on which the drawer flange bears. To prevent undue movement of the bearings along the recess as a drawer moves, at least one stop means is provided in the recess intermediate the ends thereof. Depending on the length of the runner two or more stop means may be provided spaced along the recess. As shown the stop means comprise a rivet pin 25 extending upwardly into the recess through the base thereof. Other stop means may alternatively be provided which may, if the method of production of the strip is suitable, be integral with the strip. Similar pins 25a are provided at the ends of the strip to prevent escape of the bearings from the ends of the recess.

The provision of stop means has the additional advantage of permitting a reduction in the number of ball bearings required in each runner since the bearings will be maintained spaced along the runner.

Pairs of the above described drawer runners may be used with the desk described and claimed in Application no: 44286/73 (Serial No. 1 430 788), the wall 2 being the side panel of the desk.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. A runner for a drawer comprising an elongate strip of plastics adapted to be releasably engaged on a drawer support wall, the strip having opposed facing upper and lower surfaces between which a flange of a drawer will be received, the lower surface being recessed to receive freely rotatable balls, and stop means intermediate the ends of the recess in the lower surface for limiting movement of the balls along the recess.

2. A runner according to claim 1, wherein the runner is generally U-shaped, the base of the U being provided with means for attaching the runner to a drawer support wall and the arms of the U providing

the opposed surfaces.

3. A runner according to either claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the stop means includes a pin extending into the recess.

5 4. A runner according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the strip is extended.

5. A runner according to either claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the stop means is

formed integrally with the strip.

6. A runner substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

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